

COMMENTS ON *CYNOCEPHALUS* BODDAERT VERSUS *GALEOPITHECUS* PALLAS. Z.N.(S.) 1792

(see volume 24, pages 190-191)

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The proposal presented by Van Valen, Butler, McKenna, Szalay, Patterson and Romer, for suppression of the currently used and valid name *Cynocephalus* Boddaert, 1768, and its replacement by the almost completely disused junior synonym, *Galeopithecus* Pallas, 1783, for colugos or "flying lemurs", is an anachronism.

The name *Cynocephalus* is used in every modern work including those by Simpson (1945), Grassé (1955) and Romer (1966), cited by Van Valen *et al.* in support of their proposal, by Butler (1956) co-signer of the proposal, and by authors of widely disseminated reference books some of which are listed below. Few names for well known but rare animals are better established and more universal than *Cynocephalus*.

A search through the issues of the Zoological Record since 1945 reveals *Cynocephalidae* adopted as the "official" familial name for colugos, and *Cynocephalus* used as the generic name 9 times, *Galeopterus* = [*Cynocephalus*] used three times, and *Galeopithecus* used once, by Davis (1962 : 28, footnote).

Apprehension felt by the aforementioned proponents that *Cynocephalus* could be misunderstood as the name for a baboon, is largely based on supposition and past events. There is slight likelihood that the application of *Cynocephalus* could be misconstrued in proper context, or as defined in modern dictionaries, encyclopedias and text books.

Colugos are living animals. It would not be surprising, therefore, that the six authors of the proposal in question, all vertebrate paleontologists, may have had little occasion to inquire into the literature of recent mammals and the present status of the name *Cynocephalus*. In any case, uniform use of the name *Cynocephalus* by practically all paleontologists and laymen does not affect in the least the availability of the literature on colugos under whatever name including the generic synonyms, *Galeopithecus*, *Galeopus*, *Pleuropterus*, *Dermopterus*, *Galeolemur* and *Galeopterus*.

In conclusion, I cannot agree with the distinguished proponents that suppression of *Cynocephalus* Boddaert and validation of *Galeopithecus* Pallas would, at this late date, insure stability and prevent confusion. On the contrary, substitution of an unavailable and nearly obsolete name for a valid, universally established and popularly known name for one of the familiar "oddities" of the animal world, could create the very dismay and confusion predicated but never realized when *Galeopithecus* was first dropped for *Cynocephalus*.

In the interest of eliminating unsettling proposals regarding the status of *Cynocephalus*, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is hereby requested to:

- (1) place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology, the generic name *Cynocephalus* Boddaert, 1768, *Dierkundig Mengelwerk*, 2 : 8, footnote 1; type species, *Cynocephalus volans*, Boddaert (= *Lemur volans* Linnaeus, 1758), by monotypy [work cited, Boddaert's annotated translation of Pallas, 1767, *Spicilegium Zoologicum*, fasc. 3 (*Lemur volans*, p. 4)];
- (2) list *Galeopithecus* Pallas, 1783, *Acta Acad. Imp. Petrop.*, 4 (1780) : 208 [work not seen], with type *Lemur volans* Linnaeus, 1758, by monotypy, as a junior, objective synonym.

LITERATURE CITED

(with addition of selected reference works using *Cynocephalus* for colugos)

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 BOURLIÈRE, F. 1954. *The natural history of mammals* [p. 30]
 ——— 1955. *Mammals of the world* [p. 191].

- BURTON, M. 1962. *Systematic dictionary of mammals of the world* [p. 48]
BUTLER, P. M. 1956. The ontology of molar pattern. *Biol. Rev.*, **31** : 30-70
[*Cynocephalus*, pp. 44 ff.]
CLARK, W. E. LE GROS. 1959. *The antecedents of man* [p. 92]
GRANDALL, L. S. 1964. *The management of wild mammals in captivity* [p. 57]
DAVIS, D. D. 1962. Mammals of the lowland rain-forest of North Borneo, *Bull. Nat. Mus. Singapore* [p. 28, footnote 3]
ELLERMAN, J. R., and MORRISON-SCOTT, T. C. S. 1955. Supplement to Chasen (1940), "*A handlist of Malaysian mammals*". British Museum (Nat. Hist.) [Chasen's Galeopteridae (p. 5) changed to Cynocephalidae; *Cynocephalus* recognized, with synonyms *Galeopithecus* and *Galeopterus*]
GRASSÉ, P. 1955. *Traité de zoologie*, vol. 17, fasc. 2 [p. 1713]
HARRISON, J. L. 1967. *An introduction to the mammals of Singapore and Malaya* [not seen]
MORRIS, DESMOND. 1965. *The mammals. A guide to the living species* [p. 88]
ROMER, A. S. 1966. *Vertebrate Paleontology* [pp. 211, 380 *Cynocephalus* and *Cynocephalidae* used as alternatives]
RUSSELL, D. E. 1964. Les mammifères paléocènes d'Europe. *Mem. Mus. Nat. Hist. Nat., Paris*, (C), **13** : 1-324 [p. 111]
SIMPSON, G. 1945. The principles of classification and a classification of mammals. *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, vol. 85 [p. 54]
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By the Committee on Nomenclature of the American Society of Mammalogists
(Chairman: William Z. Lidicker, Jr.)

The Committee has studied the proposals by Van Valen, *et al.* to suppress the generic name *Cynocephalus* Boddaert, 1768, in favour of junior synonym *Galeopithecus* Pallas, 1783. We would like to report that we are in unanimous disagreement with this proposal.

Our reasons for opposing the validation of *Galeopithecus* primarily stem from a disagreement with the authors of the proposal concerning the present state of unhappiness with *Cynocephalus* among mammalogists, and the extent to which we feel the alleged current confusion will be alleviated by a change to *Galeopithecus*. Specifically we feel that, whatever the merits of the Commission's 1925 ruling on this matter, *Cynocephalus* is currently an accepted and widely used name. Furthermore, its suppression at this time would only cause widespread and unnecessary confusion. We see no compelling argument why the law of priority should not be allowed to take its course in this case, and therefore strongly oppose suppression of *Cynocephalus* Boddaert. One Committee member has pointed out that understandable unhappiness with Article 40, which may force unwelcome change in long-standing family names, should not be used as an argument, as has been done in this case, for replacing a valid generic name with an objective synonym. Finally, one of us (Hershkovitz) has formally submitted his comments in opposition to the Van Valen *et al.* proposal (see above).